

## National Agricultural Summary

June 12-18, 2000

### HIGHLIGHTS

**A wide band of heavy rain boosted soil moisture supplies in the Corn Belt and parts of the southern Great Plains and lower Mississippi Valley. Crop conditions improved in most areas due to the rainfall, but crops in parts of the northern and eastern Corn Belt deteriorated due to excessive soil moisture. In the Southeast, mostly light precipitation temporarily boosted crop conditions, but soil moisture**

**supplies remained very short. Winter wheat harvest rapidly progressed in the Great Plains and lower Mississippi Valley, despite rain delays during part of the week. In the northern Great Plains, growth of small grains was aided by adequate moisture supplies and seasonably cool weather. Hot weather accelerated crop development in the Southwest.**

**Corn:** Acreage silking was at 2 percent, equal to last year's pace and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. In Texas, 55 percent of the crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 43 percent was doughing or beyond, and 22 percent was dented. A few fields entered the silking stage in Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee. Development was slightly ahead of normal in Kansas and Missouri and equal to the average pace in Tennessee. Conditions improved in many areas of the Corn Belt due to widespread rains that eased moisture shortages. The rain was most beneficial in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. Below-normal temperatures and excessive topsoil moisture reduced crop conditions in parts of the northern Corn Belt, especially in Wisconsin, where nearly half of the soils were saturated. Conditions deteriorated in North Carolina due to increasing moisture shortages.

**Soybeans:** Ninety-three percent of the acreage was emerged, 1 week ahead of last year's progress. Above-normal temperatures and ample moisture supplies aided rapid emergence in the eastern Corn Belt and lower Mississippi Valley. Between 10 and 20 percent of the crop emerged during the week in Arkansas, Kentucky, Michigan, and Tennessee. Fields also quickly emerged in Missouri and Wisconsin despite cooler-than-normal temperatures. Rain aided emergence in parts of North Carolina, but moisture supplies diminished in other areas of the State. Two percent of the crop was blooming, slightly ahead of last year and the average for this date. Development was most advanced in the lower Mississippi Valley, with 26 and 30 percent of the crop blooming in Louisiana and Mississippi, respectively. Acreage blooming was twice the average for this date in Mississippi and almost three times the normal in Louisiana. A few fields began blooming in the southern Corn Belt and central Great Plains. Rain improved conditions in most areas of the Corn Belt and parts of the lower Mississippi Valley, especially in Louisiana, Missouri, and Nebraska. Warmer weather benefited fields in Michigan. In Ohio, conditions deteriorated due to excessive soil moisture.

**Winter Wheat:** Harvest progressed to 35 percent complete, more than 1 week ahead of last year and the average for this date. Growers in Kansas harvested more than one-third of their wheat acreage during the week even though rain interrupted progress in parts of the State. The harvest also rapidly progressed in Arkansas, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas, despite rain delays during part of the week. Harvest began in Nebraska, but had not advanced into the northern Great Plains or Pacific Northwest.

**Small grains:** The spring wheat and barley crops were 25 percent headed. Both crops were about 1 week ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Development rapidly progressed in the Pacific Northwest, despite below normal temperatures. In Washington, spring wheat headed

jumped 29 percentage points and barley headed advanced 21 percentage points. Spring wheat headed progressed 42 percentage points in South Dakota. Forty percent of the oat acreage was headed, 9 percentage points ahead of last year and more than double the 19-percent average for this date. The oat crop was most advanced in Iowa and Nebraska. Acreage rapidly headed in the northern Corn Belt, especially in Wisconsin, where acreage headed jumped 31 percentage points during the week. Development also rapidly progressed in South Dakota and Pennsylvania.

**Cotton:** Thirty-seven percent of the cotton was at or beyond the squaring stage, 3 percentage points ahead of this date last year and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Acreage squaring rapidly advanced in the Mississippi Delta States, progressing 30 or more percentage points in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Development was slightly slower in Missouri and Tennessee, where squaring progressed 28 and 23 percentage points, respectively. In the Southwest, cotton squaring doubled in California to 50 percent, and progressed 29 percentage points in Arizona. Development was least advanced in Oklahoma and Virginia. Acreage setting bolls was at 7 percent, compared with 4 percent last year and the average of 5 percent. Development was most advanced in Arizona and Texas, with 11 percent setting bolls. Rain aided conditions in the Southeast, but moisture shortages remained serious in most areas. Heavier rainfall boosted moisture supplies in the lower Mississippi Valley and southern Great Plains, although conditions deteriorated in parts of Oklahoma and Missouri due to excess soil moisture.

**Rice:** Eight percent of the crop was headed, ahead of last year's 5 percent and the 2 percent average for this date. In Louisiana and Texas, 31 and 33 percent was headed, respectively. None of the acreage was heading in interior areas of the Mississippi Delta, and development lagged slightly behind normal in Mississippi.

**Sorghum:** Ninety-two percent of the sorghum acreage was planted, more than 1 week ahead of last year's 83-percent pace and 10 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting rapidly advanced in New Mexico, where progress more than doubled, to 87 percent. Planting was nearly complete in the Corn Belt and northern Great Plains due to rapid progress in Illinois and South Dakota, where planting advanced 11 and 20 percentage points, respectively.

**Other crops:** Eleven percent of the peanut acreage was pegging, slightly behind last year's pace. Acreage pegging slowly gained momentum in the Southeast and southern Great Plains. Ninety-four percent of the sunflower acreage was planted, as progress neared completion in South Dakota and Kansas. In Colorado, planting was just over 50 percent complete.